

# Notice of Public Availability

From: Scott Wilson, Central Coast Region  
California Department of Fish & Game  
Post Office Box 47  
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## **Subject: Notice of Public Availability of Proposed Planning Agreement**

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is considering the entry into a Planning Agreement under the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA) with the County of Santa Clara, City of San Jose, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, (collectively the "Local Agencies") and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This notice announces the availability of the proposed Planning Agreement for public review and comment for twenty-one (21) days, pursuant to Section 2810, subdivision (d) of the NCCPA.

The NCCPA encourages broad-based planning to protect and conserve the state's wildlife heritage while allowing appropriate development and growth. DFG is authorized to approve natural community conservation plans (NCCPs) pursuant to the NCCPA, and to enter into agreements with other public agencies or private entities for the conservation of species and habitats.

The Local Agencies are four local public agencies working together to prepare a regional conservation plan for a portion of Santa Clara County. The plan will be both a NCCP and a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) pursuant Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act. The Local Agencies desire to design and implement a NCCP/HCP that describes the measures the Local Agencies will perform in order to conserve biological resources while providing a means for compatible development that is consistent with other applicable local and state policies and regulations.

The primary purpose of the Planning Agreement is to define the goals and obligations in the development of a NCCP/HCP for a portion of Santa Clara County. Among other things, it also provides a preliminary list of the natural communities, and the endangered, threatened, candidate, or other species that are found, or may be found, in those communities, to provide an initial focus of the NCCP/HCP. The execution of the Planning Agreement is not an approval of the NCCP/HCP, but rather an agreement among DFG, FWS and the Local Agencies to a process for the development of a proposed NCCP/HCP.

DFG invites the public to review and comment on the proposed Planning Agreement. The document can be viewed on the internet at DFG's website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nccp> or the Local Agencies' website at <http://hcp.sccgov.org>. Upon request, a paper copy also can be sent by mail or facsimile by contacting Ms. Kathy Geary at (707) 944-5566 or picked up in person at the Central Coast Regional Office of DFG at 7329 Silverado Trail, Napa, CA 94558.

All comments should be sent to the address listed at the top of this Notice. The period for public review and comment will close April 15, 2005. Comments received on or before April 15, 2005 will be reviewed.

Date: 14 March 2005

Signature

Printed name:

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Title

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